

Notes of the Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF) Working Group, held at the Council Offices on 9th September 2014

In attendance:

Councillors: GA Boulter and J Boyce

Officers: M Hall

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Mrs S Morris, S Parker

2. Draft Terms of Reference

Approved by the Working Group for recommendation to Council as:

1. To receive updates on the progress of the Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme on behalf of the Council.
- 2 To make comments and observations which will assist in determining the future direction of the SLF Programme in the Borough
- 3 To consider any issues that the programme highlights in relation to Oadby & Wigston Council policies and priorities together with any cross cutting governance issues
- 4 To advise and make recommendations to Council resulting from the review of the Leicestershire SLF Programme after its initial three years of operation including any further requests for funding.

3. Briefing Paper - Supporting Leicestershire Families - One Year On

The briefing paper had been circulated to the members of the Working Group prior to the meeting and formed the basis of all subsequent discussions.

The information in the report covered the background to the scheme, funding, the local scene, the families supported, payment by results, governance and an assessment of the success of the scheme so far.

Members agreed that supporting the first three years of the scheme had been the right thing to do at its inception even though the outcomes and potential success were unknown at that stage.

Members were concerned that although eighteen months into the scheme there was some compelling anecdotal evidence that the scheme was making a positive

difference to the lives of families in the borough that it was still not quantifiable particularly any added value that was being provided beyond and above the already existing support network and system.

The areas that members still had questions over were:

1. What quantifiable added value is the scheme providing above and beyond what was in place already and is it value for money
2. There were some minor anomalies within the statistics and information provided in the appendices that needs to be resolved for the next time the Working Group meets. e.g accuracy of the mapping and the sources of referrals particularly that there didn't appear to be many made by either the Council or the Police in the Borough
3. Is the profile of families supported in the borough comparable with the rest of the county or are there any anomalies
4. How the scheme works in order to monitor families that have been on the scheme, have been successful and come off and then are monitored to ensure they don't slip back again – i.e prevention
5. A better understanding of the referral criteria and what is the classification and definition of a family
6. How does the supporting families system and do the SLF workers integrate and compliment any other support system and services that are in place
7. A greater understanding of the role of the early learning centres
8. Firmer and more quantifiable outcome and output information, particularly on the finances and any resulting savings that are flowing back into the borough to any public services.

Members were conscious that the existing funding package covers 2015/16

Members are clear that they will require more evidence based quantifiable information and the questions set out above answered before considering further funding for 16/17 onwards and also how these services could be mainstreamed.